

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 03335 241139Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /089 W  
-----036068 241748Z /44

R 240945Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7932  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USINT HAVANA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION USNATO  
USICA WASHDC

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DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PORG, OAU, XA, ET, SU  
SUBJECT: OAU SUMMIT: ETHIOPIA/SUDAN MEDIATION COMMISSION

REF: KHARTOUM 3046 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: STATUS OF ETHIOPIAN-SUDANESE RELATIONS WAS NOT  
GREATLY AFFECTED BY OAU SUMMIT DELIBERATIONS AND THERE STILL  
APPEARS DESIRE ON BOTH PARTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. HOWEVER  
DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OVER ERITREA AND APPROACH TO SOLUTION OF  
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QUESTION REMAIN AS MAJOR OBSTACLES TO SUCH AN IMPROVEMENT.  
SUMMIT RECOMMENDED OAU MEDIATION EFFORTS SHOULD CONTINUE  
AND ALSO EXAMINE "ROOT CAUSES" OF TENSION IN BILATERAL  
RELATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. ETHIOPIA/SUDAN MEDIATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, SIERRA  
LEONE FONMIN CONTEH, PRESENTED TO SUMMIT RESULTS OF TWO

MEETINGS IN FREETOWN (DEC 77) AND DAR ES SALAAM (JUNE 78). CONTEH ASSERTED "CONSIDERABLE" PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD ALLEVIATING TENSION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND RE-ESTABLISHING NORMAL RELATIONS. HE CITED REACTIVATION OF AIR LINKS, REVIVAL OF JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE AND REDUCTION OF HOSTILE MEDIA AS EXAMPLES OF THIS PROGRESS.

2. SUDANESE PRES NIMEIRI, AS HEAD OF SUDANESE DELEGATION, THANKED COMMITTEE AND NOTED ETHIO-SUDANESE RELATIONS WERE STRAINED, ONLY BECAUSE OF ERITREAN QUESTION", WHICH COULD ONLY BE SETTLED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS. NIMEIRI ASSERTED ETHIOPIA COULD NOT FULLY APPRECIATE ERITREAN ISSUE, DESPITE SUDANESE INITIATIVES AND THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. NIMEIRI FURTHER CLAIMED THAT ETHIOPIAN POSITION THAT ERITREA WAS DOMESTIC PROBLEM IS ERRONEOUS. HE ADDED THAT ERITREAN QUESTION "THREATENS SECURITY AND PEACE IN CONTINENT AND ENCOURAGES FOREIGN INTERVENTION."

3. NIGERIAN PRES. OBASANJO SUPPORTED NIMEIRI TO SOME DEGREE BY STRESSING TENURE OF MEDIATION COMMITTEE BE EXTENDED AND EXPANDED IN SCOPE TO INCLUDE ERITREAN QUESTION. HOWEVER, ETHIOPIAN FONMIN FELEKE NATURALLY REJECTED DISCUSSION OF ERITREA, SAYING IT WAS INTERNAL MATTER AND NEITHER OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS NOR OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION AND NOT EVEN OAU SUMMIT WAS ENTITLED TO CONSIDER IT. NIMEIRI REJOINED THAT ERITREA WAS NOT AN INTERNAL MATTER AND "ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FILE IS STILL BEING MAINTAINED BY UN FOR CONSIDERATION." OBASANJO CONCLUDED DEBATE BY URGING MEDIATION COMMISSION CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS AND THAT IT EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM.

4. SUMMIT ADOPTED RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR EFFORTS OF COMMISSION AND REQUESTING THAT IT CONTINUE ITS WORK, BEARING IN MIND "ROOT CAUSES OF THE DISPUTE AND RUGENT NEED FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN REGION." NIMEIRI EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH ETHIOPIAN HEAD OF STATE MENGISTU "AT ANY PLACE, AT ANY TIME."

5. COMMENT: WHILE SUDAN GAINED SOME SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION ON ERITREA, IT WAS MORE IN CONTEXT OF FINDING PEACEFUL SOLUTION AND PRE-EMPTING FOREIGN INTERVENTION, THAN ACCEPTANCE OF ERITREAN QUESTION AS NON-INTERNAL MATTER. IT DOES NOT APPEAR OAU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE MUCH MORE "CONSIDERABLE" PROGRESS IN ITS MEDIATION, BEYOND WHAT IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED THUS FAR AND RESOLUTION WILL BE LEFT TO INVOLVED PARTIES DIRECTLY. ETHIOPIAN FONMIN FELEKE MET FOR 2 HOURS WITH SUDANESE VICE-PRES. ABU AL-GASSIM JULY 23 AND THEY MAY HAVE WORKED OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MENGISTU-

NIMEIRI MEETING OR FURTHER MODALITIES TO EASE TENSION  
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. RELIABLE INFORMATION ON MEETING IS  
NOT AVAILABLE.  
BERGUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO THE OAU COLLECTIVE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMISSIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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